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Abbey buildings. In this paper Mr. Scott gives a very interesting and lucid account of the foundation of the Abbey, of the date of construction and the character of the different buildings within the Abbey precincts, and of their present condition, together with remarks on the details of workmanship, and much other curious information. The Appendices fill rather more than half of the volume, and comprise independent essays on Henry the Seventh's Chapel and Tomb, on the buildings erected by Edward the Confessor, on the Jerusalem Chamber, the Abbot's House, the Library and its contents, the Organ, the Monuments in the Abbey, and other subjects, by twelve gentlemen who have made special researches in regard to them, with extracts from the fabric rolls, and lists of the abbots, priors, bishops, and deans. The whole is abundantly illustrated with skilfully executed plans and drawings, showing the most minute details of construction. Nothing, indeed, seems to have been omitted which could be sought for in such a monograph of one of the oldest and most perfect specimens of Gothic architecture in England; and no one can study the volume without a feeling of increased respect for the persistent energy with which mediæval piety sought to give a durable expression to the religious sentiment, and for the exquisite taste with which every detail was elaborated in the cathedrals and churches of the Middle Age.

7. — *The History of Scottish Poetry.* By DAVID IRVING, LL. D., Author of "The Life of Buchanan," etc., etc. Edited by JOHN AITKEN CARLYLE, M. D. With a Memoir and Glossary. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas. 1861. 8vo. pp. xxxi. and 619.

THOUGH this History is now first published, it was announced as in preparation more than thirty years ago, and was probably completed not long afterward. During this interval considerable new light has been thrown on the subject of which it treats; but Mr. Irving does not appear to have availed himself of any of the recent publications of this class, and his work is given to the world in the form in which it was left at his death, a few years ago, and without the benefit of his final revision. It cannot, therefore, be regarded as quite abreast of the latest inquiries into the history of Scotch literature, and it is not, to any considerable extent, a work of original investigation, like Ticknor's "History of Spanish Literature," or Hallam's "Introduction to the Literature of Europe." Mr. Irving, however, was a man of much literary taste, and his position as librarian of the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh gave him great advantages in the preparation of such

an historical survey of the growth of Scotch poetry as this. It includes notices of most of the principal poets from Thomas the Rhymer, who flourished in the latter half of the thirteenth century, to Lady Wardlaw, who died about the year 1727, with abstracts of many of their works, and copious extracts. Mr. Irving is not a pleasing or elegant writer, but he has discharged his self-imposed task with fidelity; his citations appear to be judiciously made, and his work furnishes a sufficiently full account of the state of Scotch poetry during the five centuries over which it extends.

Prefixed to the History is a short memoir of the author, by his friend, Mr. David Laing; and the volume is also enriched by a copious Glossary, which, indeed, is indispensable for understanding many of the extracts, and an Index. Dr. Carlyle's editorial labors appear to have been confined to the verification of the extracts and references, and the addition of a few notes.

8. — *The Vita Nuova of DANTE. Translated, with an Introduction and Notes, by THEODORE MARTIN.* London: Parker, Son, & Bourn. 1862. Small 4to. pp. lviii. and 120.

THE excellent reputation which Theodore Martin has acquired by his previous writings and translations, and especially by his much-esteemed version of the Odes of Horace, is a sufficient guaranty that any work bearing his name will be characterized by ripe scholarship, and will be clothed in a style of great purity and elegance. In both these respects the volume before us will fully answer the expectations of its readers, and will add to the growing popularity of the editor. The elaborate Introduction which he has prefixed, and his copious notes, evince a careful study of Dante's life and works, and a just appreciation of his character, while the translation of both the prose and poetical parts of the "*Vita Nuova*" is uniformly marked by judgment and good taste. As a translator of poetry Mr. Martin has, we think, few superiors in our language; and his versions from Dante are among his most successful efforts. In his Introduction and notes he shows a large familiarity with what has been written on Dante by others; but he does not appear to have seen several well-considered papers on the "*Vita Nuova*" by our countryman, Mr. Charles Eliot Norton, which were printed in the third volume of the "*Atlantic Monthly*," and which have contributed much to a better understanding of Dante's life and works among American readers.